

LIBRARY

6/5



BOROUGH OF TIPTON.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(Dr. E.C.Downer)
including that of the
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
(Mr. G.H.Acton, M.S.I.A.)
for the
YEAR ENDING 31st. DECEMBER
1940.

Public Health Department,
Municipal Buildings,
Sedgley Road West,
Tipton.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Tipton.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present
to you my first annual report as Medical Officer of Health
to the Borough.

It consists simply of facts
and figures without comment.

It has been drawn up in
accordance with instructions of the Ministry of Health in the
shortest possible form for the sake of economy.

I have only had the honour to
be your Medical Officer of Health for the last six weeks of
this year and most of those six weeks were spent in "taking
over" and getting to know the town. I did not therefore feel
justified in commenting on the facts and figures quoted.

I wish to record my deep
appreciation of the work and loyalty of my colleague Dr. McWhirter
and to say that only by dint of hard work has she been
able alone to maintain the work of the Department at the
standard in which I find it. I have greatly profitted from
her experience and advice.

I wish further to record the
great help given to me since my arrival by your Chief Sanitary
Inspector, Mr. Acton.

I wish heartily to record my
thanks of the keenness and loyalty of the nursing staff, the
additional sanitary inspectors and the clerical staff.

Finally Mr. Mayor, Ladies and
Gentlemen, I would like to thank you for your kind welcome
and constant support.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

ERIC C. DOWNER.

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.

Eric C. Downer M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. from 16th
November 1940.

E.P.McWhirter (acting M.O.H.) 1st. January - 15th
November 1940.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical
Officer.

E.P.McWhirter M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Consultant and Visiting Obstetrician.

J.S.M.Connell, F.R.C.S.

Ophthalmic Surgeon.

F.N.N.Roberts, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., (on active service)
Deputy during war - I.Lloyd Johnstone, M.C., M.D., D.O., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P.

Dental Surgeon.

R.H.B. Bellerby, L.D.S.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

x G.H.Acton, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors.

x G.R.Houghton, M.S.I.A.

x J.S.Haworth, M.S.I.A.

Veterinary Officer and Meat Inspector (Palethorpes Ltd.)

Major R.L.Green, M.R.C.V.S.

Superintendent of Nurses.

S Miss M.E.Slack C.M.B.

Health Visitors.

§ Mrs. A.C.King, C.M.B.

§ Mrs. E.L.Connell, C.M.B.

§ Miss M.M.Byard, C.M.B.

§ Miss L.A.Powell, C.M.B.

Clerical Staff.

W.J.Hemmings (on active service)

Miss B. Hemming.

Miss M. Breatt.

x Qualified Meat Inspector.

§ State Registered Nurse.

S Trained Nurse.

STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	2167
Population (Census 1931)	36814
Registrar General's Estimate of the population Mid-year 1940.	35050 X
No. of inhabited houses, December 1940	9250 X
Rateable Value (31st. March 1940)	£144635
Sum represented by a penny rate	£540

	M.	F.	Total
<u>Live Births</u>	404	367	771
Legitimate	400	363	763
Illegitimate	4	4	8
Birth Rate per 1000 estimated resident population			21.99
<u>Still Births.</u>	M.	F.	Total
	12	11	23
Still Birth Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births			28.84
	M.	F.	Total
<u>Deaths.</u>			
Deaths	233	202	435
Death Rate per 1000 estimated resident population			12.41
Standardised Death Rate			15.51

Detailed Causes of Death.

Disease	M.	F.	Total
Cerebrospinal Fever	1	-	1
Scarlet Fever	-	1	1
Whooping Cough	1	2	3
Diphtheria	9	3	12
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	15	18	33
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	2	3
Syphilis	1	-	1
Influenza	10	1	11
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	1	-	1
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	1	-	1
Cancer	29	18	47
Diabetes	4	4	8
Cerebral Haemorrhage	17	17	34
Heart Disease	36	38	74
Other Circulatory Diseases	4	-	4
Bronchitis	17	18	35
Pneumonia	20	10	30
Other Respiratory Diseases	4	1	5
Peptic Ulcer	2	1	3
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	3	3
Appendicitis	1	2	3
Other Digestive Diseases	4	7	11
Nephritis	7	6	13
Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis	-	2	2
Other Maternal Causes	-	1	1
Premature Births	8	5	13
Birth Injury and Congenital Malformations and Diseases	5	4	9
Suicide	1	1	2
Road Traffic Deaths	4	-	4
Other Violence	11	15	26
All other Causes	19	22	41

* The above Table of Deaths and Other Causes are given by the Registrar-General.

N.B. The deaths due to enemy action include 1 man and 2 women killed on the 19th November 1940.

The number of visits paid during the year by Health Visitors:-

to expectant mothers	First Visits	319
	Total Visits	508
to children under 1 year of age	First Visits	742
	Total Visits	4236
to children between the ages of 1 and 5 years.	Total visits	7073

Attendances at all Welfare Centres.

	Central Clinic Session 1	Clinic Session 2	Burnt Ocker Tree Hill	Tipton Green
No. of attendances by				
1. Children under 1 year	1950	626	1104	1614
2. Children between 1 and 5 years.	1234	182	1875	974

The total number of children who first attended at the Centres during the year and who on the date of their first attendance were under one year of age was 568 representing 74% of the notified live births.

Defects found in children attending the centres

Debility	4
Malnutrition	2
Rickets	1
Overfeeding	5
Improper feeding	9
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	6
Skin Diseases	11
Enlarged tonsils and adenoids	11
Phimosis	18
Squint	3
Umbilical hernia	27
Crippling defects	7
Eye defects	3
Inguinal hernia	3
Miscellaneous	78

The number of children under five years treated at the Minor Ailment Clinics was 143 of whom 30 were new cases and 113 were old cases. The total attendances numbered 454.

The Ophthalmic Surgeon examined 30 children under five years of age. Among them were the following:-

Squint	9 cases of whom 7 required spectacles
Congenital Nystagmus	1
Lachrymal Obstruction	1
Other conditions	6

There were 5 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified during the year and of these, 3 were admitted to Hospital. In no case was vision impaired.

The Dental Clinic for children under 5 and for nursing and expectant mothers was held fortnightly because the numbers coming for treatment were so small. The number of children under 5 seen by the dentist was 41 and total attendances for under fives were 42.

The number of children on the Child Life Protection

Register was 1 and the number of persons receiving children for reward at the end of the year was 1.

The Ante-natal Clinic is held on Friday afternoons. 285 women attended for examination during the year. The attendances totalled 550.

Under arrangements made with West Bromwich Corporation, 38 women were sent to Hallam Hospital for treatment for conditions complicating pregnancy.

The number of cases attended by midwives employed by the Tipton Nursing Association

as midwives was	261
as maternity nurses	20

The number of cases attended by midwives in private practice

as midwives was	388
as maternity nurses	56

During the year midwives summoned medical aid under the Midwives Act 1918, Section 4, Subsection 1, in 269 cases.

There were 9 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia notified during the year of which 5 were removed to Hospital.

Two women died in consequence of childbirth from sepsis representing a rate of 2.52 per 1000 total live and still births.

One woman died in consequence of childbirth but from a condition other than sepsis representing a rate of 1.26 per 1000 total live and still births.

The total Maternal Death Rate per 1000 live and still births was 3.78.

There were two other deaths in women after childbirth where the cause of death was not attributed to childbirth.

Dental treatment for ante-natal and post-natal mothers was as follows:-

No. of ante-natal cases seen by dentist	19
No. of post-natal new cases seen by dentist	11
Total attendances	58

Prevalence and control over Infectious and other Disease.

The following table gives particulars of the incidence of notifiable diseases.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>No. of cases notified</u>	<u>No. removed to Hospital</u>	<u>No. of deaths</u>
Scarlet Fever	91	25	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	5	5	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	1	1
Diphtheria	99	78	12
Measles	67	-	-
Whooping Cough	24	-	3
Pneumonia	98	-	30
Erysipelas	14	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	9	5	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	3	-

The above table differs from the Registrar General's figures in the number of notified cases of Puerperal Pyrexia. Unfortunately one case had been entered twice in our register of Notified Diseases and the error was not found until after it was too late to alter the entry by the Registrar General.

Analysis of notified cases of Infectious Disease
according to age groups.

	Scarlet Fever	Cerebro- spinal Fever	Anterior Polio- Myelitis	Diphtheria	Measles	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Erysipelas
Under 1 year	-	1	-	-	6	3	5	-
1 to 2 years	3	1	-	2	9	7	3	-
2 to 3	4	-	-	5	7	4	8	-
3 to 4	8	1	-	9	6	3	7	-
4 to 5	13	-	1	8	10	-	-	-
5 to 10	48	1	-	45	25	7	11	2
10 to 15	6	-	1	19	1	-	2	-
15 to 20	-	-	-	8	2	-	4	-
20 to 35	8	1	-	3	1	-	11	2
35 to 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	2
45 to 65	1	-	-	-	-	-	18	6
over 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	2

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

There were 99 cases of Diphtheria with 12 deaths.

Immunisation was offered to children under 14 years of age during the whole year. The prophylactic used was T.A.F. 28 children were presented for immunisation of whom 27 received 3 doses of 1 c.c. at intervals of a fortnight. 13 of the 27 were over 5 years of age and 14 were under 5.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Tuberculosis										
Age Periods	New Cases					Deaths				
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
0-1 yr										
1-5 yrs		1			1			1		1
5-15							1		1	2
15-25	1	5	3		10	3	7		1	11
25-35	4	8		1	13	2	6			8
35-45	3	2			5	5	3			8
45-55	4	2			6	1	1			2
55-65	2				2	3	1			4
over 65	1				1					
Total	16	18	3	1	38	14	19	1	2	36

3 of the deaths had not previously been notified as Tuberculosis.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

JOINT REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND THE CHIEF
SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Owing to the advent of the war no houses were dealt with under the Housing Act 1936. The following table shows the total number of houses dealt with under the Housing Act from 1931, the commencement of the scheme, to 31st. December 1940.

	Total no. of houses.	Total no. of persons displaced.
91 Clearance Areas	1321	6201
Individual unfit houses and caravans in respect of which demolition orders have been made.	488	2305
Parts of buildings in respect of which closing orders have been made.	11	50
Individual unfit houses in respect of which undertakings have been accepted.	3	18
Individual unfit houses and caravans demolished in anticipation of demolition orders.	5	23
Totals	1828	8597

DEMOLITION OF UNFIT HOUSES.

During the year 40 houses were demolished making a total of 1732 since the commencement of the programme.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my seventh report on the sanitary administration of the Borough for the year 1940. In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health the report has been considerably curtailed.

The Ministry of Food, on January 15th, 1940, commenced operating the Government Centralised Slaughterhouse in Tipton. Slaughtering is carried out for the towns of West Bromwich, Oldbury, Rowley Regis and Tipton, and during the year 79,694 animals were inspected as against 29,121 in 1939.

Glancing at the Ministry of Health's return of carcasses inspected one unfortunately notes an increase in the percentage of the number of cattle inspected affected with Tuberculosis, but this can no doubt be accounted for through the Government's wise policy of weeding out old, worn out and unsuitable members from the various herds. It is interesting to note under the present scheme that the Government are taking advantage to the full of the enormous amount of waste and byproducts which can be utilised for the benefit of the nation; the amount of waste products not utilised before the war must have been considerable. In addition another striking feature is the collection of various glands from the slaughtered animals for the making of glandular products which are now so urgently required for various pharmaceutical preparations.

The amount of work carried out under the Housing Act was negligible but the numerous extra duties in connection with air raid precautions, civil defence, billeting etc., has again called for a considerable amount of extra time and work for the staff.

During the year under review 35 overcrowded families were rehoused into Council Houses, but from cases discovered during routine inspection, there is no doubt that the total number of overcrowded families existing today will be nearly as large as the number recorded after the overcrowding survey carried out in the year 1936. The pressing problem after the war will be the provision of the smaller type of Council House let at an economic rent for rehousing the large number of newly married couples who are at present living with parents as subtenants and thereby in many instances causing serious overcrowding.

The problem of remedying the various sanitary defects to houses reported and found in course of routine inspection is becoming very difficult owing to lack of labour and materials, and one can only endeavour to see that the most urgent defects are dealt with.

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued confidence; to the Medical Officer of Health for his wholehearted support, and to the staff for their loyalty and ready co-operation.

I am,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

GEO. H. ACTON.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

The total number of visits paid by the Sanitary Inspectors in the course of their duties totalled 4661. In addition 447 preliminary notices and 46 statutory notices were served under the Public Health Acts.

The total number of complaints registered during the year was 362 as against 431 in 1939.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

During the year 844 visits were paid to the centralised slaughterhouse by the Sanitary Inspectors who are all qualified meat inspectors. The number of animals inspected was 79, 694, made up as follows:-

Beasts	8390
Calves	2213
Sheep	46358
Pigs	22733

The total amount of meat and other foodstuffs condemned was:-

Tons	Cwts	Qrs	Lbs
53	13	0	12

The following information has been supplied by Major Green the Veterinary Officer in respect of the other Sausage and Bacon Curing Factory situated in the Borough which is under his supervision.

No. of pigs slaughtered and inspected 22,784

Total amount of meat condemned:-

Tons	Cwts	Qrs	Lbs
32	10	0	2

The undermentioned table shows the number of carcasses inspected and condemned at the Government centralised slaughter house. The percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis again shows a marked rise in cows and a decline in pigs. The figures for the year 1939 are given in brackets.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned					
(Return as required by Ministry of Health)					
	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed (if known)	6470 (1310)	1920 (1339)	2213 (282)	46358 (8486)	22733 (17704)
No. inspected	6470	1920	2213	46358	22733
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcasses condemned	Nil (Nil)	3 (1)	10 (Nil)	52 (3)	29 (35)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	406 (42)	249 (124)	13 (Nil)	1674 (93)	995 (907)
Percentage of the no. inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	6.3 (3.2)	13.1 (9.3)	1.0 (Nil)	3.7 (1.1)	4.5 (5.3)
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned	4 (Nil)	13 (6)	1 (Nil)	Nil (Nil)	23 (18)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	483 (67)	926 (565)	Nil (Nil)	Nil (Nil)	2112 (1776)
Percentage of the number inspected affect- ed with Tuberculosis	7.5 (5.1)	48.9 (42.6)	0.04 (Nil)	Nil (Nil)	9.4 (10.1)

(Government Centralised Slaughterhouse under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors only)

() = Figures for the year 1939.

48 applications for the renewal of the existing licenses to slaughter or stun animals under the Slaughter of Animals Act were granted. No new applications were received.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS and MILKSHOPS.

During the year 92 visits were paid to dairies, cowsheds and milkshops and the premises were found on the whole to be in a clean, satisfactory condition. In three instances the attention of the dairymen were drawn to various irregularities in respect of pasteurisation and sterilisation of milk. These were remedied.

REGISTRATION UNDER THE MILK AND DAIRIES ACT.

A. Retailers	Loose Milk	16
	Bottled milk only	101
B. Producers, Dairymen and Wholesalers		13

SAMPLING OF MILK FOR EXAMINATION for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli, Bacterial Count etc.

Two samples of ^{raw}milk from the one farm situated in the Borough were obtained and submitted to bacteriological examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli and one sample was found to be positive. After veterinary examination of the herd, the offending cow was isolated and slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order.

One sample of Tuberculin Tested Milk was also examined for T.B.bacillus and the result was negative.

Two samples of undesignated milk were obtained for examination from a cleanliness standpoint of view and in one case the sample was unsatisfactory. The milk supply in this case came from outside the district and the Local Authority of the district concerned was informed and necessary action taken.

Three samples of pasteurised and one of accredited milk were also obtained for appropriate examination and in each case the sample was found to be highly satisfactory.

The Staffordshire County Council are the Food and Drugs Authority for this area. The Local Authority however, taking advantage of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 Section 64(b), made application to the Minister of Health that they should be in lieu of the County Council, the Food and Drugs Authority as respects their district. The application, owing to the outbreak of the war was deferred.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938.

Premises used for the sale, storage and manufacture of Ice Cream.

38 applications were received for registration under the above Act, 3 of which were refused on account of unsatisfactory and dirty condition of premises. 22 were granted registration and the remaining 13 were granted registration after certain work had been carried out, namely, the provision of a proper hot water supply and washing facilities and the renovation of premises.

Fish Friers.

30 visits were paid to fish frying premises and in two instances informal notices were sent in respect of unsatisfactory

conditions. These notices were complied with.

FACTORY ACT.

The number of primary visits made to Factories during the year numbered 30 and in addition 25 revisits were paid. Notices were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories drawing attention to the contraventions of the Act at 3 Factories and sanitary defects were also discovered at 10 premises during routine inspection. The defects in all cases were remedied after informal notice.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

The household effects of 82 families were disinfested by means of hydrocyanic acid gas, making a total of 2335 since the commencement of the scheme.

99 occupied vermin infested houses were also treated with fumigants and insecticide.

OVERCROWDING.

During the year, 35 cases of overcrowding were rehoused into Council Houses making a total of 358 since the Overcrowding Survey taken in 1936. The number of persons concerned in such cases was 157.

OTHER DUTIES.

Routine visits were paid to schools, entertainment places, canal boats etc., and in the administration of the Shops Acts, but no outstanding irregularities were discovered.

